

Message Text

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FOL PARIS 36996 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DEC 20, 1977 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS PARIS 36996

S/PA FOR HODDING CARTER; EA/P FOR MACGRUDER;
S/PRESS FOR TRATTNER

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: US VN
SUBJ: US/VN NEGOTIATIONS - JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT DELIVERED AT
CONCLUSION OF THIRD ROUND US/VN NEGOTIATIONS BY USDEL
SPOKESMAN JACK CANNON AND VIETNAMESE SPOKESMAN
12/20/77. BEGIN TEXT:

"THE THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
AT THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN PARIS WAS CONDUCTED IN A
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CORDIAL AND BUSINESS-LIKE ATMOSPHERE. THE TWO SIDES
HELD DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST
INCLUDING A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION
INFORMED THE AMERICAN DELEGATION THAT VIETNAM WILL
RELEASE THE CREW OF THREE AMERICANS ABOARD THE YACHT
BRILLIG TAKEN INTO CUSTODY OCTOBER 12. THE

VIETNAMESE SIDE ALSO SAID IT HAD ACCEPTED A U.S. INVITATION FOR A TEAM FROM THEIR OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR MIAS AND THE RECOVERY OF REMAINS TO VISIT THE U.S. CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY AND JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER IN HAWAII EARLY IN 1978. THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT FURTHER TALKS WOULD BE USEFUL AND THAT THEY WOULD MEET AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME AND PLACE TO BE DECIDED UPON." END TEXT.

2. BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWED JOINT STATEMENT. BOTH US AND VIETNAMESE SPOKESMEN CHARACTERIZED NEGOTIATIONS AS USEFUL, CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE AND LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO NATIONS. US SPOKESMAN IN ANSWER TO QUESTION REVEALED VIETNAM HAD SAID BRILLIG CREW WOULD BE RELEASED BY END OF YEAR. CANNON INDICATED VIETNAMESE SCIENTISTS WOULD STUDY US METHODS OF REMAINS IDENTIFICATION AT HAWAII CENTER AND EFFORT WAS SEEN AS EVIDENCE OF CLOSE AND CONTINUING COOPERATION BY VIETNAMESE ON MIA ISSUE. BOTH SPOKESMEN DISAVOWED USE OF WORD "PROGRESS" TO CHARACTERIZE TALKS, PREFERRING USE OF TERMS "POSITIVE" AND "CONSTRUCTIVE" TO CHARACTERIZE TONE OF MEETINGS. HARTMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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